

## **RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS**

There is no formal agreement between the government of the United States and the United Kingdom for the reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders. However, an informal procedure has existed since January 1, 1980, whereby individual states in the United States have agreed to consider claims for maintenance made in the United Kingdom and vice versa. In order for an application to be accepted in either country the requesting parent must have a valid maintenance order. If you do not currently have a maintenance order issued in your favor then you will need to seek appropriate legal advice. If the absent parent continually defaults on payments stipulated in the maintenance order then the following procedure for enforcement will apply.

### **APPLICATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES**

Applications from the United States under this procedure should be made to your local Child Support Enforcement Office located in your local Department of Human Services. It is the responsibility of the Child Support Enforcement office to forward the application to the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Section (REMO) located Department for Constitutional Affairs at the following address: Department For Constitutional Affairs, REMO Section, Selborne House (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), 56-60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW; phone: 0845-345-5303; email: [remo@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:remo@dca.gsi.gov.uk). The REMO Section will forward the application to the nearest English County Court where the absent parent resides and will endeavor to enforce it. There is normally an application fee applied by the Child Support Enforcement Department in the United States; the remainder of the procedure is usually conducted free of charge.

### **APPLICATIONS FROM ENGLAND AND WALES**

Applications under this procedure should be made to the Justices' Clerk of your local Magistrate's Court. The Justices' Clerk will be required to forward the application forms to the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Section located at the Lord Chancellor's Department. It is the responsibility of the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Section to forward the application to the Child Support Enforcement Office in the particular state where the absent parent resides. That authority will endeavor to enforce the order. There is normally a nominal application fee applied by the Magistrate's Court; the remainder of the procedure is usually conducted free of charge.

\*\*\*\*\*